

Proposed Barrier Approach for Stage 1 of CALFED

3-26-99 Draft

Subject to Revision/For Discussion Purposes Only

Proposed Alternative Project Description for Stage 1 of CALFED

A sub-group of the South Delta Improvement (SDI) Team consisting of the fish and wildlife agencies has begun to develop a proposed alternative project description for Stage 1 of CALFED. Members are Matt Vandenberg of the USFWS, Karl Halupka of the NMFS, and Jim White and Frank Wernette of the DFG. Jim Monroe with the COE has also attended sub-group meetings. This proposed project description will help facilitate consultation under both endangered species acts and address the goals of the Conservation Strategy. The proposed Stage 1 project description is comprised of 15 project components. Each project component is further divided into specific features. The project components are:

- A. New Clifton Court Forebay Intake, Screen, and Dredging for Conveyance
- B. SWP and CVP Fish Salvage Facilities and CVP Screens
- C. SWP and CVP Delta Diversions
- D. Agricultural Flow and Stage Control Structures with Dredging or Functional Equivalent
- E. Head of Old River Fish Control Structure
- F. Water Quality
- G. Environmental Water Account
- H. Agricultural and Wetland Diversion Screening
- I. Aquatic Habitat
- J. Terrestrial Habitat
- K. Delta Levees
- L. Ecosystem Functions
- M. Other Delta SWP and CVP Facility Operations
- N. Water Use Efficiency Measures
- O. Monitoring

Four of these components were presented to the SDI Team on March 18, 1999. They were: SWP and CVP Fish Salvage Facilities and CVP Screens, Agricultural and Wetland Diversion Screening, Aquatic Habitat, and Terrestrial Habitat. Remaining components will be provided at the April 1, 1999 meeting.

Barrier/No-Barrier Alternatives

At the request of CALFED staff and agency management the sub-group has worked on developing two alternative approaches for addressing the needs of the SDWA. Generally these are described as the "barrier" and "no-barrier" alternatives. The sub-group committed to strive to provide the SDI Team with draft "barrier" and "no-barrier" alternatives by March 26, 1999. While the sub-group has not completed its assignment, a first draft of a "barrier" alternative was prepared and is attached. A "no-barrier" approach is under development and should be evaluated as a functional equivalent of the barrier approach in order to fulfill the requirements of 404 to evaluate potential alternatives to the flow control structures presented in the attached alternative.

Due to the very short time line given the sub-group these draft descriptions have not received adequate management review. That review will need to occur before these drafts can be formalized.